



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

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March 23, 2004

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Margaret Donnellan Todd
County Librarian

Conny B. McCormack
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

SUBJECT: **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN OPTIONAL PAYMENT PLAN TO
FACILITATE CITY REPAYMENT OF ELECTION COSTS INCURRED
FOR THE LIBRARY SPECIAL TAX BALLOT MEASURE**

On December 9, 2003, the Board approved a motion instructing the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), the Public Library (PL), and the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) to develop a payment plan that would allow cities to repay the County over a three-year period for election costs incurred for the Library Special Tax ballot measure. The Board further instructed that we report back within 90 days with a payment plan that included a recommendation regarding financial hardship on the part of any city. On March 3, 2004, we requested an extension of that deadline to March 23, 2004 to allow the participating cities an opportunity to assess the impact of the failure of the special tax election. In response to the motion of December 9, 2003, this report presents a summary of our recommendations regarding this issue.

Your Board approved resolutions that allowed 10 cities to place the Library Special Tax measure on the March 2, 2004 Primary Election ballot, and one city (Walnut) to place the measure on its April 13, 2004 ballot. The special tax measure was not approved by any of the 10 cities that had the issue on the March 2, 2004 ballot. The special tax measure could, however, still be approved by voters in the City of Walnut on April 13, 2004, and we will report back to your Board separately on the outcome of that election.

The estimated costs for the cities participating in the March 2, 2004 and April 13, 2004 elections are provided on the attached. Generally, if a city requests an election, it pays the costs incurred for providing the services during the fiscal year in which the services are received. In the instance of the Library Special Tax ballot measure, the costs have been incurred in Fiscal Year 2003-04. However, on December 9, 2003, the Board directed staff to develop a payment plan that would allow cities to repay the County for the election costs for the special tax ballot measure over a three-year period.

Since the March 2, 2004 election, the County Library has been in contact with the 10 cities who participated in the Library Special Tax ballot measure. Three cities have indicated that they are prepared to pay the full cost of the ballot measure at this time: Bell, Bradbury, and Carson. The following cities have indicated that immediate repayment presents a hardship that would negatively impact city finances, and they have requested a three-year repayment schedule: San Fernando, Huntington Park, South Gate, La Puente, Gardena, Montebello, and Avalon.

The Auditor-Controller has recommended that any payment deferral agreements be approved by your Board, and we concur. We believe that the simplest way in which to present such requests to your Board would be a formal request for a three-year repayment schedule, in the form of a letter from the City Manager of each impacted city to the County Librarian. The city's request would then be presented to your Board as Miscellaneous Communications, much as election administrations are submitted to you now.

The CAO, PL, and the RR/CC are in agreement that the costs associated with the Library Special Tax ballot measure will be assumed by RR/CC until such time as repayment in full is received from the individual cities. We, therefore, recommend that any city submitting a written request for a three-year repayment plan be billed by RR/CC for the costs of the Library Special Tax ballot measure in three equal installments covering Fiscal Years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, with no interest being charged on the outstanding balance.

Each Supervisor
March 18, 2004
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Should your Board accept these recommendations, the County Librarian will notify each city of the need to submit a written request for a repayment schedule, and we will arrange to have notification of repayment schedules sent to each of the affected cities by the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk.

If you have additional questions, please contact County Librarian, Margaret Donnellan Todd, at (562) 940-8400.

DEJ:MDT:TM
DIL:AC:DJ:lbm

Attachment

cc: Auditor-Controller
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors

Public Library-Payment Plan.bm

ESTIMATED ELECTION COSTS

COUNTY LIBRARY SPECIAL TAX BALLOT MEASURE CONSOLIDATED WITH MARCH 2, 2004 PRIMARY ELECTION

CITIES	TOTAL ESTIMATED ELECTION COSTS	WITHOUT COUNTY LIBRARY SPECIAL TAX BALLOT MEASURE	ADDITIONAL COST DUE TO COUNTY LIBRARY SPECIAL TAX BALLOT MEASURE
Avalon	\$ 11,000	\$ -	\$ 11,000
Bell	23,000	-	23,000
Bradbury	9,000	-	9,000
Carson*	116,000	87,000	29,000
Gardena	55,000	-	55,000
Huntington Park	31,000	-	31,000
La Puente	33,000	-	33,000
Montebello	54,000	-	54,000
San Fernando	22,000	-	22,000
South Gate	60,000	-	60,000
Total	\$ 414,000	\$ 87,000	\$ 327,000

* The total estimated cost for the City of Carson includes the election costs for City Mayor and Library Tax Measure.

COUNTY LIBRARY SPECIAL TAX BALLOT MEASURE CONSOLIDATED WITH APRIL 13, 2004 WALNUT CITY GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

CITIES	TOTAL ESTIMATED ELECTION COSTS	WITHOUT COUNTY LIBRARY SPECIAL TAX BALLOT MEASURE	ADDITIONAL COST DUE TO COUNTY LIBRARY SPECIAL TAX BALLOT MEASURE
Walnut**	5,000	4,000	1,000

** The total estimate cost is for election support services only.